



February 5, 2010

The Honorable Senator E. Benjamin Nelson
720 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit an appropriations request for federal assistance. Enclosed, you will find our completed application, accompanying documentation, and a copy of the grant application for your review.

Western Nebraska leaders have come together to voice overwhelming support for the development and growth of the wind energy industry for the panhandle of Nebraska. As you will note in the attached request, western Nebraska is a natural location for energy production and distribution. Most importantly, wind energy can help diversify the economy of this rural area. As the economic partner to the residents of western Nebraska for this important venture, Western Nebraska Community College (WNCC), has undertaken the important development of the Western Nebraska Wind Energy Training Center. This very needed center will enable WNCC to provide the trained workforce that will be required for Nebraska's wind energy industry. Federal assistance is critical to the viability of this project and the diversification of the economy of rural Nebraska.

We appreciate your serious consideration for funding of this very worthwhile opportunity for Western Nebraska Community College and the surrounding area. If I may be of any assistance to you in your evaluation of this project, please contact me at 308.635.6101.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Eileen C. Ely'.

Eileen Ely, Ph.D.
President